



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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GOV. EASLEY ANNOUNCES 2.6 PERCENT DROP IN JUVENILE CRIME
Youth Development Center Admissions at All-Time Low in 2002

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley has announced that North Carolina saw a 2.6 percent decrease in juvenile crime from 2001 to 2002, and that admissions to the state's five Youth Development Centers were at an all-time low of 605 last year.

"This is great news for our state," Easley said of the latest figures released today in the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention's 2002 Annual Report. "Juvenile crime is down and Youth Development Center admissions are dropping.

"These latest findings show that our intervention and prevention efforts along with the ongoing work of the Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils across the state are making a difference," Easley said. "We must continue after-school programs such as Support Our Students, and early education initiatives like *More at Four*, to help reach these youth early, keep them interested in school and keep them focused on becoming productive members of their communities."

Other highlights of the DJJDP annual report reflect:

- DJJDP state appropriations went from \$140,980,433 in 2001 to \$128,585,062 in 2002;
- In 2002, an estimated 1.4 million youth were of school age in North Carolina and attended public, charter or private schools. DJJDP services were provided at these schools;
- Approximately 102,000 youth encountered the state's juvenile justice system through interaction with Juvenile Crime Prevention Councils, other community programs such as Support Our Students, teen courts, mentoring programs, multipurpose juvenile homes, Eckerd Camps and Camp Woodson; juvenile court services, or the Center for the Prevention of School Violence;
- 30,983 youth received intake services by juvenile court counselors; 17,054 were referred to juvenile court;
- 90 percent of youth receiving Juvenile Court Risk Assessments experienced school behavior problems during the previous 12 months;